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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE $igwedge$	
In re Application of:) mENDS !
MARK W. PERLIN	$\frac{1}{2}$
Serial No. 09/) \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Filed:	
Art Unit:)
Patent Examiner:)))
	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213
	March 1, 1999
Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	
Sir:	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendments to the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before the first line, insert the following:

-- This is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial number 08/685,528

filed July 24, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,876,933, which is a continuation of U.S. patent